

Testimony in favor of HB 5277 An Act , An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment (MDE) that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities

My name is Dr. Alexia Bouckoms, and I have lived in Farmington for many years. Twenty-seven years ago a tree fell on my car, resulting in damage to my spinal cord and traumatic brain injury that had me in a coma for forty days. I use a manual wheelchair and have stayed very physically fit because I understand the importance of preventative health care. However, I face considerable barriers to getting it.

First and foremost, my primary care physician's office does not have an accessible scale. I used to go to Mt. Sinai Hospital just to weigh myself, but it has gotten harder and harder over the last few years as my physical condition has deteriorated with age and with the fact that my arms have had to do double duty for my legs. In fact, although I am concerned that I have been losing a lot of weight, I haven't been weighed in six years.

In addition to the lack of an accessible scale, my primary care doctor's office does not have an adjustable exam table. A year or so ago, I had to have an EKG in my wheelchair, which was very hard on me.

I urge you to support HB 5277.